



Haverhill 14-19
LearningPartnership

A-Level English Language Course information

Why choose A-Level English Language?

English Language is an academic course with more than a few surprises. It is *not* a more advanced course of GCSE English. It is a study and exploration of language itself. In English Language, we focus on language as a living thing, a constantly evolving process that provides a unique and insightful view of people and society. Students who take the course won't take things for granted – we aim to analyse the building blocks of language and investigate the situations that influence how we use it. The range of language that we study is immense because we focus on speech just as much as writing – everything from text messages and conversations in the street to written law and how Gordon Ramsay controls his kitchen.

This is a rewarding course and will appeal to thoughtful and perceptive individuals looking for a new challenge. It is compatible with practically any other course, scientific or artistic. It is well regarded by universities and, because the course has both practical and analytical content, is suited to a wide range of careers – journalist, writer, teacher, barrister and even vet, to name a few.

Course Outline:

AS

Unit 1. Categorising Texts ENGB1

This unit covers the introductory aspects of the study of language, using a variety of texts for the basis of this study. In addition it focuses on three specific social contexts: Language and Power, Language and Gender and Language and Technology.

External Examination

2 hours

60% of the total AS marks

30% of the total A2 marks

Unit 2. Creating Texts ENGB2

Coursework

In this unit candidates are encouraged to develop their own writing skills, producing writing in different genres and for different audiences and purposes.

Internally Assessed

2500 - 3500 words

40% of the total AS marks

20% of the total A2 marks

A2

Unit 3. Developing Language ENGB3

This unit builds on the knowledge and skills developed in AS studies, as well as having an additional focus on two new specific areas of language study:

Child

Language Acquisition and Language Change (how we got from 'thee' and 'thou' to 'chavspeak').

External Examination

2 ½ hours

30% of the total A-level marks

Unit 4. Investigating Language ENGB4

Coursework

In this unit candidates apply their knowledge of linguistic methods and concepts acquired over the course to two separate pieces of writing: a language investigation and an informative media text.

Internally Assessed

2500 - 3500 words

20% of the total A-level marks

Resources and facilities:

Encyclopaedia of English Language, David Crystal

Discover Grammar, David Crystal

Any of 'The Language Report' books by Susie Dent, 'Larpers and Shroomers' is a good start.

Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics, Peter Matthews

Living Language, Keith & Shuttleworth

www.universalteacher.org.uk

www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/alevel/default.htm

Careers and progression:

The course is especially suited to journalists and people with an interest in the media, those working in law or politics and teachers. The nature of the course means that it is practically suited to almost any kind of career.

Previous students have gone on to the above careers but have also included those studying veterinary science and business.

Entry requirements:

At least five grades of C or above at GCSE, including a B in English Language.

A Level results:

All passed at A2 last year, with results continuing to improve, and the course has enjoyed healthy numbers: 20 at AS and 10 at A2 on the current role.

Enquiries:

Please address all enquiries regarding the A-Level English Language course to Mr M Harris via Castle Manor Business & Enterprise College or e-mail to M.Harris@CastleManor.lppplus.net